

Allenstown  
New Hampshire

# HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2009



*Riverside Drive - April 2007*

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**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

In accordance with NH RSA 41:8, the Allenstown Board of Selectmen, having held a duly-noticed public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ hereby adopts the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Selectmen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectman

This document was received and recorded by the Town Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allenstown Town Clerk

Seal:

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Committee was comprised of the following individuals who met from August to October, 2002:

- Robert Martin, Deputy Chief, Fire Department
- James McGonigle, Chief, Police Department
- James Boisvert, Highway Department
- James Rodger, Chair, Planning Board / Sewer Commissioner

The 2009 Update Committee included:

2009 Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee	
Name	Title/Affiliation
Chaput, Everett	Allenstown Fire Chief
Collins, Kelley	Allenstown Town Administrator
Hubbard, Jane	Hubbard Consulting LLC
Jones, Clifford	Allenstown Building Inspector
Lockwood, Bonnie	McGrew Management Services LLC
Martin, Robert	Allenstown Fire
Mulholland, Shaun	Allenstown Police chief
Rodger, James A.	Allenstown Sewer Dept.
Roy, Chris	Allenstown Highway/Fire

The committee members listed above participated in bi-monthly committee meetings, provided departmental information, contributed in their field of expertise, reviewed and commented on committee meeting minutes, reviewed drafts of the Plan and worked together to identify and prioritize mitigation projects.

*Many thanks to all the hard work and effort from each and every one of you. This plan would not exist without your knowledge and experience.*

*Thank you!*

The following Central NH Regional Planning Commission staff contributed to the development of the first edition 2002 Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Stephanie Alexander, Principal Planner
- Catherine Coletti, Planning Assistant
- Joshua Carter, UNH Intern
- John Vaillancourt, Regional Planner

Hubbard Consulting LLC of Andover New Hampshire was contracted by the Town to update the Plan in 2009.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background

The Hazard Mitigation Plan for Allenstown is intended to provide information in the event of a natural disaster, to raise awareness of the vulnerability of facilities and structures of Allenstown to such disasters, and to provide measures to help offset the damages of a future disaster.

In 2000, the President enacted the Disaster Mitigation Act which requires states and municipalities to have local natural hazard mitigation plans in place in order to be eligible for disaster funding programs such as Community Development Block Grant, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Mitigation Assistance Program, and Project Impact. New Hampshire is awarded funds based upon the completeness of its State Plan and upon the number of local plans in place.

As a result of the DMA, funding is being provided to state offices of emergency management to produce local hazard mitigation plans. The NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management provided funding to the nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire in 2001 to work with two municipalities in their respective regions to produce such a plan. The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission approached the Town of Allenstown in summer, 2002, and both parties agreed to jointly complete a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in fall, 2002. In 2008, the Town of Allenstown contracted with Hubbard Consulting LLC to update the Plan to meet current FEMA Standards.

A Local Hazard Advisory Committee was established which guided the development of the Plan. The Town Fire Department, Police Department, Building Inspector, Planning Board, Road Agent, and Town Administrator were invited to participate. Other interested residents were also invited.

#### Authority

This Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), Section 322, Mitigation Planning. Accordingly, this Hazard Mitigation Plan will be referred to as the “Plan”.

#### Funding Source

This Plan was funded by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) through an Emergency Management Planning Grant, with matching funds by the Town of Allenstown.

#### Purpose

This Hazard Mitigation Plan is a planning tool to be used by the Town of Allenstown, as well as other local, state and federal governments, in their effort to reduce the effects from natural and man-made hazards.

#### Goals

The overall goal of this Plan is to reduce future life and property losses caused by natural hazard events before they occur.

The general goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Allenstown are:

- To identify natural hazards that may impact the Town;  
(such as floods, hurricanes, nor’easters, earthquakes, wildfire, and drought)
- To identify risks from these hazards; and

(such as where the events are likely to occur and what the damage might be)

- To identify resources or techniques available to help lessen the impact of hazard events.  
(such as critical facilities protection and ordinance / regulation revision)

A number of objectives have been stated, similar to the State of New Hampshire's hazard mitigation goals, which further specify the aims of Allenstown's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **Methodology**

The Hazard Mitigation Committee met on August 13, August 29, September 17, September 26, and October 10 of 2002 to produce this Hazard Mitigation Plan. On August 13, CNHRPC staff introduced the concept of the Plan and participants identified critical facilities on a map. On August 29, participants identified the locations of past hazards and evacuation route, and established broad goals for the Plan. On September 17, the first draft of the Plan was reviewed, and new and existing mitigation strategies were identified. On September 26, participants added additional mitigation strategies and prioritized them all. On October 10, participants created an implementation strategy, reviewed the final draft of the Plan, and revised the broad goals established earlier in the process. For each meeting, CNHRPC staff created agendas and meeting summaries for the Hazard Mitigation Committee.

During the 2009 Update, the Committee met on November 5, 2008 and December 3, 2008 to review and revise the Plan. Prior to the first public information meeting town department heads were notified and public notices were posted to residents and business owners requesting that they consider serving on the Committee. The agendas, attendance sheets are included in Appendix C. The committee analyzed and revised the following sections of the Plan and provided input to update them: Chapter 3 and Chapter 5.

On March 17, 2009, a final draft of this Plan was made available to the Committee and Town Departments for review and comment. The document was also provided to the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management for their review and comment.

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2009, the Allenstown Board of Selectmen held a duly-noticed public hearing to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Allenstown. Copies were made available at the Town Offices and Police Department for public review.

## CHAPTER 2

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### Community Description

The Town of Allenstown is located in Merrimack County in central New Hampshire. Allenstown is a community governed by a 3 member Board of Selectmen, with a population of almost 5,000 people. The town is predominantly a residential community with commercial businesses, primarily established on Route 3 and 28.

#### Disaster Risk

Allenstown is prone to a variety of natural hazards. These include: flooding, dam breach, severe wind events (downbursts, hurricanes, and tornadic activity), wildfire, drought, earthquake, hail, landslides, lightening strikes, extreme heat, and severe winter weather, in addition to man-made hazards. The following tables summarize the impact and probability of natural and man-made hazards.

Natural Hazards	Human Impact	Property Impact	Business Impact	Severity	Probability* In 25 years	Risk <i>Severity x Probability</i>
	Probability of death or injury 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	Physical loss damage 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	Interruption of service 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	<i>Avg. of Human / Property / Business</i>	Likelihood this will occur 0: Improbable 1: Remote 2: Occasional 3: Probable 4: Frequent	0-3: Low 4-6: Moderate 7-9 High 10-12: Severe
Flood	1	3	1	1.6	4	6.4
Hurricane	2	3	2	2.3	2	4.6
Lightning	1	1	1	1	4	4
Severe Winter Weather	2	1	1	1.3	3	4
Earthquake	4	3	3	3.3	1	3.3
Severe Wind (Tornado/Downburst)	3	3	3	3	1	3
Drought	1	1	1	1	2	2
Landslide	1	1	1	1	2	2
Dam Failure	1	3	2	2	1	2
Wild/Forest Fire	1	3	1	1.6	1	1.6
Extreme Heat	2	0	0	.7	2	1.4
Hail	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Avalanche	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Human Caused Hazards</b>	<b>Human Impact</b>	<b>Property Impact</b>	<b>Business Impact</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Probability* In 25 years</b>	<b>Risk Severity x Probability</b>
	Probability of death or injury 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	Physical loss damage 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	Interruption of service 0: n/a 1: Low 2: Moderate 3: High 4: Catastrophic	<i>Avg. of Human / Property / Business</i>	Likelihood this will occur 0: Improbable 1: Remote 2: Occasional 3: Probable 4: Frequent	0-3: Low 4-6: Moderate 7-9 High 10-12: Severe
Utility Interruption	3	2	3	2.6	2	5.3
Bomb Threat	1	1	1	1	4	4
Radiological Release	3	3	3	3	1	3
Biological Terrorism	3	1	3	2.3	1	2.3
Mass Casualty (Trauma or Medical)	3	1	3	2.3	1	2.3
Terrorist Attack (WMD)	3	1	3	2.3	1	2.3
Urban Fire	1	3	3	2.3	1	2.3
Armed Attack (assault, sniper)	3	1	1	1.6	1	1.6
Haz Mat (Transport)	2	1	1	1.3	1	1.3
Haz Mat (Fixed)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Transport Incident ( <i>plane, train, etc.</i> )	1	1	1	1	1	1
Civil Disorder	1	1	1	1	0	1



### National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Communities participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP makes Federally subsidized flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in these communities. Flood insurance, Federal grants and loans, Federal disaster assistance, and Federal mortgage insurance is unavailable for the acquisition or construction of structures located in the floodplain shown on the NFIP maps for those communities that do not participate in the program.

The Town is currently participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The community has Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) dated April 2, 1979. According to the October 2008 Community Information System, there are 70 NFIP policies, 25 of which are repetitive loss properties. Since 1979, there have been 71 claims totaling \$1,703,688 in paid losses. According to the NH Office of Energy and Planning, this puts Allenstown in the top 10 NH Communities with the Highest Number of Total Paid Losses.

## Insurance Overview

As of 09/30/2008

Community: ALLENSTOWN, TOWN OF		State: NEW HAMPSHIRE	
County: MERRIMACK COUNTY		CID: 330103	

  

Overview	Occupancy	Zone	Pre/Post FIRM
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<b>Total by Community</b>		<b>Group Flood Insurance</b>	
Total Number of Policies:	70	Total Number of Policies:	12
Total Premiums:	\$63,155	Total Premiums:	\$7,200
Insurance in Force:	\$9,947,600	Insurance in Force:	\$336,400
Total Number of Closed Paid Losses:	71	Total Number of Closed Paid Losses:	0
\$ of Closed Paid Losses:	\$1,703,688	\$ of Closed Paid Losses:	\$0

  

<b>Post Firm Minus Rated Policies</b>		<b>Manufactured Homes</b>	
Total Number of Minus Rated Policies:	6	Total Number of Policies:	0
A Zone Minus Rated Policies:	6	Total Number of Closed Paid Losses:	0
V Zone Minus Rated Policies:	0	\$ of Closed Paid Losses:	\$0

  

<b>ICC</b>		<b>1316</b>	
Total Number of ICC Closed Paid Losses:	3	Number of Properties by Community:	0
\$ of ICC Closed Paid Losses:	\$60,000		

  

<b>Substantial Damage Losses</b>			
Number of Substantial Damage Closed Paid Losses:	12		

### Repetitive Loss Properties

As of October 2008, there are 25 repetitive loss properties (an increase of 21 since 2001) that have been identified in Allenstown. According to the NH Office of Energy and Planning, this makes Allenstown third in the state for the number of repetitive losses. In addition, there are 2 Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in Allenstown. An SRL property is defined as a residential property that is covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and:

- (a) That has at least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; or  
 (b) For which at least two separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building.

## Community Repetitive Loss

COMMUNITY : ALLENSTOWN, TOWN OF

Community	State	Regional	National	
	AE, A1-30, AO, AH, A	VE, V1-30, V	B, C, X	TOTAL
RL Buildings (Total)	21	0	4	25
RL Buildings (Insured)	17	0	3	20
RL Losses (Total)	47	0	8	55
RL Losses (Insured)	39	0		45
RL Payments (Total)	\$1,057,353.36	\$0.00	\$302,895.99	\$1,360,249.35
Building	\$936,758.99	\$0.00	\$231,809.66	\$1,168,568.65
Contents	\$120,594.37	\$0.00	\$71,086.33	\$191,680.70
RL Payments (Insured)	\$902,662.98	\$0.00	\$280,524.77	\$1,183,187.75
Building	\$808,730.80	\$0.00	\$215,318.55	\$1,024,049.35
Contents	\$93,932.18	\$0.00	\$65,206.22	\$159,138.40

Post - FIRM SFHA RL Buildings: 5

Insured Buildings with 4 or More Losses: 1

Insured Buildings with 2-3 Losses > Building Value: 1

Total Target RL Buildings: 2

### Floodplain Management Goals/Reducing Flood Risks

The Town of Allenstown has focused on acquisition and relocation as a definitive tool for creating both opportunities for removing people and property from flood hazard areas, and creating open space for future flood storage to reduce impacts of flooding. The Town recently was granted a 2.1 million dollar Flood Mitigation Assistance grant to acquire 14 homes along the Suncook River. In addition, the Town applied in 2009 for an additional grant to acquire 3 more properties.

### DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

A brief description of how the Town has grown in terms of both population and housing within the last three decades follows. In terms of the development of land, land use in acres for 2001 was excerpted from the Allenstown 2003 Master Plan that the Town is currently working on. Examination of this information will allow the Town better understand the trends within its borders and how emergency and preventative services can best serve the growing and changing population and landscape.

#### Population and Housing Growth

Allenstown has been growing at a slow but steady rate over the last thirty years. The current population from the 2000 US Census shows Allenstown has 4,843 people and 2,093 housing units. This is an increase of 4.2% in population and a 12.1% increase in housing units from 1990.

## Overall Population and Housing Growth Trends in Allenstown, 1970-2000

Growth	Population	Net Change		Housing Units	Net Change	
		#	%		#	%
1970 (US Census)	2,731	NA	NA	831	NA	NA
1980 (US Census)	4,398	+1,167	61%	1,591	+760	91.5%
1990 (US Census)	4,649	+251	5.7%	1,868	+277	17.4%
2000 (US Census)	4,843	+194	4.2%	2,093	+225	12.1%
Total Change from 1970 - 2000	—	+1,612	77.3%	—	+1,262	151.8%

Sources: 1970-1990 US Census CPH-2-31 Table 9 Population and Housing Unit Counts;  
US Census 2000 Data

In 2000, there was an average of 2.31 people in each housing unit. The population density has increased dramatically in terms of persons per square mile, from 132.8 in 1970 to 236 in 2000. If Bear Brook were taken out of the buildable area, only 10 square miles would be able to be built upon and the persons per square mile would swell to 273.1 and 484.3, respectively. These startling figures give a more accurate portrayal of the population density that exists in Allenstown today and depicts a high concentration of people.

## Population Density in Allenstown, 1970-2000

Community	2000 Population	Area in Square Miles (excluding water)	Persons per square mile			
			1970	1980	1990	2000
Allenstown	4,843	20.5	132.8	214	226	236

Sources: 1970-1990 US Census CPH-2-31 Table 9 Population and Housing Unit Counts;  
US Census 2000 Data

The population of Allenstown is concentrated in the downtown area, and in manufactured housing parks off of Granite Street, Route 28, and Deerfield Road. The downtown population is primarily susceptible to lightning, gas leak, and power outage hazards. The Granite Street park is mostly vulnerable to gas leaks and power outages. The Route 28 parks are susceptible to flooding, power outages, and vehicular accidents. The Deerfield Road parks are most susceptible to fire, power outages, and ice storms.

There are seven manufactured housing parks in Allenstown. There are more building permits issued for new or replacement manufactured homes than for single family homes on a yearly basis. In recent years, two and four times the number of permits have been issued for manufactured homes than single family. Most of the manufactured home permits are for replacement housing. In 2007, there were 10 single home and 19 manufactured home permits issued by the Building Inspector (Source: Allenstown Town Report 2007).

### Land Use

Bear Brook State Park covers 51% of the Town's acreage. This resource has proven to be both an asset and a hindrance in terms of development and opportunity.

Allenstown is currently working on a new Master Plan. Chapters include detailed information and maps on Existing and Future Land Use, Housing, Population and Economics, Community Facilities, Transportation, Natural Features, and History and Culture.

In terms of land use, 13.8% of the Town, according to the tax map, is in residential use.

Land Use in Allenstown, 2001

Land Use	Acres	% of Town
Residential	1,797.1	13.8%
Commercial	179.4	1.4%
Mixed	14.9	0.1%
Industrial	151.2	1.2%
Institutional	352.2	2.7%
Bear Brook State Park	6,683.3	51.4%
Undeveloped	3,819.1	29.4%
Total	12,997.2	100.0%

Source: *Allenstown 2003 Master Plan Existing and Future Land Use Chapter*

## CHAPTER 3 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

### Flooding

Location
<p>Flooding occurs in the 100 year floodplain as designated on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. These areas primarily include the Suncook River, Merrimack River and the smaller streams and tributaries throughout town. The term 100 year flood does not mean that a flood will occur once every 100 years. It is a statement of probability that scientists and engineers use to describe how one flood compares to others that are likely to occur. It is more accurate to use the phrase “1% annual chance flood”. What it means is that there is a 1% chance of a flood of that size happening in any year.</p>
Extent/Impact
<p>The extent of damage caused by any flood depends on the depth and duration of flooding, the topography of the area flooded, velocity of flow, rate of rise, and the amount and form of development in the floodplain. The risk and impact to residents and business in the floodplain is high. Primarily flooding impacts residential areas along the Suncook River, such as Riverside Park and Brookside Park. Currently, there are buyout programs underway for these two areas. Allenstown has 70 flood insurance policy holders and 25 of these are repetitive loss properties.</p>
Previous Occurrence
<p><i>Flood of 1936</i></p> <p>In March, 1936, heavy snowfall totals, heavy rains, and warm weather all at the same time combined to devastate not only Allenstown, but all of New England. These floods killed 24 people, caused \$113,000,000 in damage, and made 77,000 people homeless throughout New England.</p> <p>The New Hampshire State Board of Health requested health officers throughout New Hampshire to issue warnings that all water from wells that had been flooded by rising surface waters should be boiled before it was used (The Union Leader, March 16, 1936). Many private wells throughout the state were flooded; potentially some residents of Allenstown had to boil their water before use.</p> <p>In central New Hampshire, the flood of 1936 overflowed the Suncook River and Merrimack River. The Merrimack River flooded homes near the Sewer Plant on Ferry Street and also flooded homes on Main Street in Allenstown (Town Historian).</p> <p><i>February 12, 1970</i></p> <p>On February 12, 1970 the Suncook River in Allenstown flooded as a result of ice break-up (Army Corps of Engineers Ice Jam Database). Flooding and evacuations were damages inflicted on the Town (Army Corps of Engineers Ice Jam Database). Also, there was severe flooding throughout town. Brookside Trailer Park was flooded (Town Historian). During the February 12, 1970 ice jam event there were actually three separate jam sites on the Suncook River in Allenstown. One was an abandoned dam located in close proximity to the Route 28 bridge. This site caused the evacuation of 5 homes and 50 trailers. The second jam, near the Route 3 bridge, flooded roads, and 40 families were forced to evacuate. The last ice jam was located at the Webster Dam and resulted in eight flooded basements.</p> <p>Allenstown was impacted by the three ice jams by flooding. Brookside Trailer Park was flooded. Residents of Riverside Park were evacuated and the Civil Defense was called out to sandbag the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Carter at Pine Acres. The Carter home was normally 100 feet from the stream's edge, but water reached the home's foundation during the flood. In addition, gates on the Suncook River Dam in Allenstown were raised to alleviate backpressure (Union Leader, February 12, 1970).</p>

*Floods of 1976*

In Spring 1976, the Suncook River flooded in Allenstown, causing flooding on Albin Ave., Canal Street, and Ferry Street (Hazard Mitigation Committee). People living on Albin Avenue were evacuated (Town Historian). Brookside Trailer Park was also flooded (Town Historian).

*March, 1977*

In March of 1977, ice break-up caused a major jam in the Suncook River, causing flooding both in Allenstown and Pembroke. Homes and roads were flooded. More than 100 buildings were evacuated in Allenstown and Pembroke combined (Army Corps of Engineers).

*July/August 1986*

Severe summer storms with heavy rains, tornadoes, flash flood and severe winds occurred in July/August 1986. These storms were a detriment to the road network statewide.

*Floods of 1987*

Caused by snowmelt and intense rain, flooding on April 16, 1987, impacted seven counties in New Hampshire, including Merrimack County, and resulted in a disaster declaration. Damage totaled \$4,888,889 for all counties.

*August 7-11, 1990*

A series of storm events with moderate to heavy rains on August 7-11, caused flooding in eight counties, including Merrimack County, and resulted in a disaster declaration. Damage totaled \$2,297,777 for all counties.

*October, 1996*

In October, 1996, heavy rains caused flooding in six counties, including Merrimack County. A disaster was declared and damage totaled \$2,341,273 for all counties.

*July 1998*

Severe storms in July 1998 caused heavy flooding in six counties, including Merrimack County. In Allenstown, Brookside Trailer Park was flooded. \$3,420,120 in damage was incurred for all counties.

*May 2006*

Extended, heavy rains caused the worst flooding in parts of New England since the 1930's. Three New England governors declared states of emergency as torrential rains flooded parts of New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts washing out roads, flooding basements, and forcing emergency evacuations. Washed-out roads and the danger of dam failures prevented many people from returning to their homes for several days, and for some, as a result of the damages to their property, longer. More than a foot of rain fell across New Hampshire and southern Maine between Friday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 16, 2006, with up to sixteen inches reported in some places. The rainfall continued for more than 100 hours with the heaviest rainfall occurring on May 13 and 14, 2006. According to the National Weather Service, the rainfall was the result of coastal storms from the south that encountered another jet stream system from Canada, forcing them to hover over New England making May 2006 the wettest May on record in Concord, New Hampshire and Portland, Maine. The attached photographs include homes impacted by the 2006 and 2007 floods.

*April 2007*

A Nor'easter came through New Hampshire and left behind another round of flooding for many of the state's communities. For many of these communities it was the second time within a year that they were affected by flooding that met or exceeded the 100-year flood. The first day of the flooding began on April 16, 2007. A state of emergency was declared by Governor John Lynch which encompassed the entire state. The 2007 flood resulted in a higher water level than 2006, causing significant damage throughout the town. The area of Riverside Drive were particularly affected. A total of 101 residences were evacuated during the flood. Mandatory evacuations were ordered for 61 residences with another 40 voluntary evacuations. There were a total of 14 condemned homes and 61 homes with substantial damage. Historically the flooding in this area has

never been as major as the 2006 and 2007 floods. One reason (as discussed in the VHB engineering report in the "scope of work" attachments) is the amount of sediment from upstream that is settling in the area and creating much higher flood levels than depicted on the FIRM. FEMA is currently conducting a study to update the maps and anticipates completion in October 2009.

<b>Probability</b>
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
<b>Frequent</b>

## Lightning

Location
The entire Town is at moderate risk to lightning hazard. The higher elevation areas have an increased probability, such as the areas with cell towers, however lightning strikes can occur anywhere in the Town.
Extent/Impact
Residents and visitors to the New Hampshire area are more vulnerable to being struck by lightning because of the activities with which they are involved, particularly on those warm summer days when lightning is most likely to occur. Often, many people are outside enjoying the variety of recreational activities that attract people to New England during the summer when the vulnerability to lightning strike is highest. More likely to be affected are structures and utilities, often resulting in structure fires and power outages.
Previous Occurrence
<i>August 1998</i> In August of 1998, lightning struck the antenna on the roof of the Allenstown Town Hall, started a fire, and blew out several computers inside. In addition, the fire station at the time (since then a new station has been built) was hit by lightning. This lightning strike knocked out computers and the municipal fire system.
<b>Probability</b>
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
<b>Frequent</b>

## Hurricane

Location
When hurricane events occur in Allenstown they affect the entire Town. Certainly, the heavy rainfall associated with hurricanes will impact the 100-year floodplain but the high winds can have an impact on the entire Town.
Extent/Impact
A hurricane is a tropical cyclone in which winds reach speeds of 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center. The eye of the storm is usually 20-30 miles wide and may extend over 400 miles. High winds are a primary cause of hurricane-inflicted loss of life and property damage. New Hampshire's exposure to direct and indirect impacts from hurricanes is real, but modest, as compared to other states in the region. That being said, the probability of hurricanes occurring in Allenstown is possible. The impact is on the floodplain areas due to heavy rains as well as high winds that cause trees to fall down thereby causing power outages, structural damage to buildings, road closures and debris management issues.
Previous Occurrence
<p><i>Hurricane of September 21, 1938</i></p> <p>The hurricane of September, 1938 was one of the worst natural disasters to impact Allenstown, due to both severe flooding and winds (Town Historian). The town experienced heavy flooding. Thirteen people died in New Hampshire; no deaths occurred in Allenstown. This was also the worst hurricane to ever strike New England, resulting in 564 deaths and over 1700 injuries.</p> <p>High winds and heavy flooding made this hurricane the worst natural disaster to impact the Town (Town Historian). Wind had a devastating impact in Allenstown. Many roofs and chimneys were torn off by high winds in Town. As reported in the Concord Monitor in September, 1938, the hurricane was "the sharpest setback the state has ever experienced."</p> <p>Thirteen deaths and 1,363 families received assistance as a result of the hurricane. Other losses included smashed homes, crippled communications lines, blocked roads, and a total direct losses of \$12,337,643 (1938 dollars). The timber industry was hit hard with the loss of trees. Damage to trees in New Hampshire was between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. This was also the worst hurricane to ever strike New England, resulting in 564 deaths and over 1700 injuries.</p> <p><i>Other Hurricanes</i></p> <p>Allenstown has been impacted by several other hurricanes, including Hurricanes Carol (September 31, 1954), Donna (September 12, 1960), Gloria (September 27, 1985), and Bob (August 19, 1991). During Hurricane Carol, Donna, and Gloria, Allenstown experienced heavy winds, but not much damage (Town Historian).</p>
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Occasional



## Winter Weather

Location
<p>There is a town-wide vulnerability to severe winter weather. Nor'easters (wind), Ice Storms, Heavy Snow Accumulations and Severe Cold can occur at any place within the Town and generally affect the entire Town when it happens. The higher elevations are more likely to experience snow or ice before the lower terrain.</p>
Extent/Impact
<p>A Nor'easter is defined as a large weather system traveling from South to North, passing along, or near the seacoast. The resulting counterclockwise cyclonic winds impact the coast and inland areas from a northeasterly direction. In the winter months, oftentimes blizzard conditions accompany these events. Heavy snow accumulations (generally considered one that deposits four or more inches of snow in a 12-hour period) especially those associated with nor'easters can have a significant affect on the Town, including extended power outages, road closures, collapsed roofs and increased snow removal costs. During ice storms, ice forms on cold surfaces, such as trees and power lines, and may continue to form until the ice is quite deep, as much as several inches thick. Ice damage results in power outages, road closures and forest damage. Ice on the roads can be the most difficult for a rapid emergency response. Private roads are difficult for emergency response vehicles due to the restricted access to roads during winter. All winter storms make walking and driving extremely dangerous. The elderly and very young are at high risk during winter storms and may be effected by hypothermia and isolation. During winter storms, there is an increased risk of fire because people may lose electricity and use candles, portable gas stoves, and other flammable sources of heat and light (Northeast States Emergency Consortium).</p>
Previous Occurrence
<p><i>Late 1950s</i>            During mid-April in the late 1950s, an ice storm impacted Allenstown by disrupting the road network. Bulldozers were required to open the road to get to the Town Hall (Town Historian).</p> <p><i>February 5-7, 1978</i>            Referred to as the Blizzard of '78, this storm affected all of New England by immobilizing infrastructure and blocking all major interstates in New England. Cars were abandoned on roadways throughout New England, including in the central New Hampshire region.</p> <p><i>March 3-6, 1991</i>            This storm impacted the entire state of New Hampshire. Numerous outages from ice-laden power lines in southern New Hampshire occurred. Allenstown was hit hard by this storm (Town Historian). In Allenstown, tree damage, especially in Bear Brook State Park, was particularly severe (Hazard Mitigation Committee).</p> <p><i>March, 1993</i>            Allenstown experienced power outages throughout town during this storm (Town Historian).</p> <p><i>January 7, 1998</i>            This ice storm had severe impacts throughout most of the state. Six injuries and one death resulted. Damage totaled \$12,446,202. In addition, there were 20 major road closures, 67,586 people left without electricity, and 2,310 people without phone service.</p>
Probability Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)
<p style="text-align: center;">Probable</p>

## Drought

Location
Droughts are difficult to define geographically. Due to their widespread nature a drought would affect the entire Town. However, a drought can affect fire suppression in those areas that do not have access to water.
Extent/Impact
A drought is defined as a long period of abnormally low precipitation, especially one that adversely affects growing or living conditions. Droughts are not as damaging to the Town as floods or winter weather. However a severe drought can affect public water supply, increase the probability of fires, and impede fire suppression. Those areas with minimal fire protection are at a higher risk as a result of a prolonged drought.
Previous Occurrence
According to the NH State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004), five droughts of significant extent and duration are evident in the 1900s: 1929-36, 1939-44, 1947-50, 1960-69 and 2001-2002. The 2001-02 drought was the 3rd worst on record, exceeded only by the droughts of 1965-1966 and 1941-1942. All of these droughts were statewide in extent and had recurrence intervals ranging from 10 to more than 25 years. In the statewide droughts of 1947 many private wells dried up and there were many forest fires throughout the state. The 2001/02 drought was not as severe but resulted in some private wells going dry.
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Occasional

## Earthquake

Location		
According to the NH State Hazard Mitigation Plan, New Hampshire is considered to lie in an area of "Moderate" seismic activity with respect to other areas of the United States and is bordered to the North and Southwest by areas of "Major" activity. There are no identified fault lines for the entire state, therefore an earthquake could occur and/or affect any location in the Town.		
Extent/Impact		
An earthquake is a rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth's surface. Earthquakes can cause buildings and bridges to collapse, disrupt gas, electric and phone lines, and often cause landslides, flash floods, fires, and avalanches. It is assumed that all of the buildings in the Town have not been designed to withstand seismic activity. More specifically, older historic buildings (Schools, Sewer/Water lines and the Hodsons Mill) constructed of non-reinforced masonry are especially vulnerable. Allenstown has experienced the effect of small to moderate earthquakes that had minor to no effect on the town's infrastructure. However, if a large (6+ on the Richter Scale) occurred near the town, structural damage would be moderate to severe.		
Previous Occurrence		
<u>New England Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Magnitude</u>
Ossipee, NH	December 20, 1940	5.5
Ossipee, NH	December 24, 1940	5.5
Dover-Foxcroft, ME	December 28, 1947	4.5
Kingston, RI	June 10, 1951	4.6
Portland, ME	April 26, 1957	4.7
Middlebury, VT	April 10, 1962	4.2
Near NH Quebec Border, NH	June 15, 1973	4.8
West of Laconia, NH	Jan. 19, 1982	4.5
Probability		
Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)		
Remote		

## Severe Wind

Location
Severe wind events (downburst, tornadoes or high winds associated with thunderstorms) can occur anywhere in Allenstown. A downburst is a severe localized wind blasting down from a thunderstorm. These "straight line" winds are distinguishable from tornadic activity by the pattern of destruction and debris. A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel shaped cloud. They develop when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, causing the warm air to rise rapidly. Damage from tornadoes is caused as a result of high wind velocity and wind blown debris. Generally the higher elevations are more vulnerable due to the fact that they are home to many communication towers, including emergency response/mutual aid towers. Due to the sporadic nature of Tornadoes, they could occur anywhere in the Town of Allenstown.
Extent
Depending on the size and location of these events, the destruction to property may be devastating. Several of the more significant and recent events within New Hampshire have caused several millions of dollars in damage and at least 5 fatalities. An F-2 Tornado, according to the Fujita scale, maintains wind speeds from 13-157 mph. A tornado occurring in Allenstown would cause considerable damage. Roofs could be torn off frame houses; mobile homes demolished; large trees snapped or uprooted; and light object missiles would be generated as a result of an F-2 Tornado.
Previous Occurrence
<p>The following events are recorded with the National Climactic Data Center:</p> <p><i>August 25, 2007:</i> A severe thunderstorm downed trees in Allenstown. Numerous severe thunderstorms began developing statewide during the late afternoon of August 17th and continued through the evening hours. Wind damage was widespread with these storms along with a few reports of large hail.</p> <p><i>May 31, 2002:</i> A line of severe thunderstorms moving through New Hampshire produced severe winds that downed trees and power lines throughout the central and southeastern part of the state. About 18,000 customers lost electrical service during the storms. Trees were reported down in Allenstown and many other neighboring towns.</p> <p><i>July 24, 2008:</i> An F2 tornado moving north northeast out of Rockingham County crossed into Merrimack County near Route 202 and continued north northeast a little over 5 miles before entering Belknap County. Homes and buildings in the tornadoes path sustained damage along the path which was up to a half mile wide. The tornado cut a 50 mile path through 5 counties in southeast New Hampshire resulting in 1 fatality and damage to over 100 structures some of which some were completely destroyed. Fortunately, Allenstown was not directly hit by this tornado, but made residents aware of the possibility of damaging tornadoes.</p>
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Remote

## Dam Breach and Failure

Location
According to the NH Department of Environmental Services, there are 16 dams within Allenstown. Eight are classified as AA, which means the failure of which would not threaten life or property, and two are classified as B, which means dams have a significant hazard potential. The remaining six dams are not classified, according to NH DES' records. The two dams with significant hazard potential are named the Crystal Lake Dam and the Sunset Lake (Places Pond) Dam by NH DES.
Extent/Impact
<p>A Class B dam, as defined by the NH Department of Environmental Services, is a dam that has a significant hazard potential because it is in a location and of a size that failure or misoperation of the dam would result in any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No probable loss of lives.</li> <li>▪ Major economic loss to structures or property.</li> <li>▪ Structural damage to a Class I or Class II road that could render the road impassable or otherwise interrupt public safety services.</li> <li>▪ Major environmental or public health losses, including one or more of the following:</li> <li>▪ Damage to a public water system, as defined by RSA 485:1-a, XV, which will take longer than 48 hours to repair.</li> <li>▪ The release of liquid industrial, agricultural, or commercial wastes, septage, sewage, or contaminated sediments if the storage capacity is 2 acre-feet or more.</li> </ul>
Previous Occurrence
There are no recorded dam failures.
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Remote

## Wild/Forest fire

Location
Most of the Town and the surrounding communities of Allenstown are heavily forested and are therefore vulnerable to this hazard, particularly during periods of drought.
Extent/Impact
A forest fire is an uncontrolled fire in a woody area. They often occur during drought and when woody debris on the forest floor is readily available to fuel the fire. Fires in New Hampshire are predominantly human-caused, and roughly half of the total fire activity is in the most populous three southern counties. The proximity of many populated areas to the forested lands exposes these areas and their populations to the potential impact of wildfire. In addition, the potential for wildfires increases during a prolonged drought. The greatest potential for urban-wildland interface is the eastern portion of Allenstown.
Previous Occurrence
<p><i>Summer, Early 90s</i> During a dry summer in the early 1990s, 30 acres were burned by wildfire in Bear Brook State Park.</p> <p><i>Summer, 2000</i> During the summer of 2000, an illegal campfire caused a wildfire to burn 25 acres near Gilbert Road.</p> <p><i>May 2001</i> In May, 2001, a fire on Wing Road, Allenstown burned a barn, house, and 5 buildings. The fire spread and eventually burnt 10 acres of land.</p>
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Remote

## Landslide

Location
Slopes in excess of 25% are susceptible to landslides, especially where soils are thin or highly erodible. These areas are generally located near mountain peaks and along the sides of ridges. In addition, the increase of single residential homes on steep slopes will create higher risk.
Extent/Impact
The extent of landslides in Allenstown is going to impact a very limited area. Roads are likely to experience erosion during heavy rain events and a large scale landslide could damage only a limited amount of structures.
Previous Occurrence
No substantial landslides have occurred in the Town of Allenstown
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Occasional

## Extreme Heat

Location
Extreme heat events are difficult to define geographically. Due to their widespread nature a period of extreme heat would affect the entire Town.
Extent/Impact
A Heat Wave is defined as 3 or more consecutive days of 90 degrees or higher. Extreme heat conditions may impact the health of residents and visitors. Facilities without generators and air-conditioners that house the elderly and disabled are very susceptible to human health issues. Utilities are also vulnerable as the demand for air-condition rises.
Previous Occurrence
The town has experienced frequent heat waves in any given 25 year period. However, the impact upon the town and its residents is minima./
Probability
<i>Remote/Occasional/Probable/Frequent (in 25 years)</i>
Occasional

## Avalanche & Hail

Description
Due to no history or risk of avalanche or hail within the Town of Allenstown, the Committee chose not to recognize the risk of Avalanche and Hail in this Plan.

## Human Caused Hazards

### Vulnerability:

The following *Human Caused Hazard Vulnerability* Table was completed by the Committee utilizing a vulnerability tool developed by FEMA.

Critical Facility	Man Made Hazard Vulnerability Score							
	Visibility	Target	Accessibility	Mobility	Hazardous Materials	Collateral Damage	Site Population	TOTAL
Town Hall	5	5	5	5	0	1	1	22
Allenstown Elementary School	5	5	2	5	0	1	2	20
Armand R. Dupont School	5	5	2	5	0	1	2	20
Fire Department	5	3	3	5	1	1	1	19
Police Department	5	4	2	5	0	1	1	18
Highway Dept/Transfer Station	3	1	5	5	1	1	1	17
Suncook WWTF	1	1	2	5	2	5	1	17
Pinehaven Boys Center	1	5	5	5	0	0	1	17
State Police EOD Facility	1	4	2	5	3	2	0	17
Pembroke Waterworks Wells	1	2	2	5	0	5	0	15

## CHAPTER 4 CRITICAL FACILITIES

### ASSET IDENTIFICATION

The identification of assets within a community is integral to determining what may be at risk from a natural disaster. This section examines the assets in five categories: Critical Facilities, Vulnerable Populations, Economic Assets, Special Considerations, and Historic/Other Considerations.

Not only are the address and phone number, where applicable, supplied for each identified asset, the hazards to which the asset is most susceptible are listed. In Allenstown, each asset can be damaged by all of the hazards listed in the **PROFILE OF HAZARD EVENTS** section. However, specific possible natural dangers or secondary disasters are noted. The majority of the assets appear on **Map 3: Critical Facilities** at the end of this section. They include numerous flooding hazards throughout Town along rivers, streams and wetlands, the hazards of a break in the gas lines, power outages, and vehicular accidents along several stretches of highway. Also, fire, ice and lightning events were identified as having particular significance in certain areas of Allenstown based on past events or potential events.

#### Critical Facilities

Critical facilities are categorized as those town or state buildings or services that are first-responders in a disaster. Fire Departments, Police Departments, and Highway Departments as well as the Town Office are crucial in providing and coordinating the emergency services. Other critical facilities would include hospitals and shelters. Utilities or utility features are also included because of communication and power/water service.

The first-responders are located in the downtown area of Allenstown, within a one-mile radius of each other, and accessible by Route 3. The Police Department is located along School Street and joins the Town Hall. The Fire Department is located in a brand new facility on Ferry Street. These facilities are within a quarter-mile of the Suncook River and within a half-mile of the Merrimack River; however, they are not within the 100-year or 500-year floodplain. The Highway Department is located on Granite Street and is accessible from Route 3 in the opposite direction from the Fire and Police Departments.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Town Hall	16 School St	485-4276	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Police Department	16 School St	485-9500	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Fire Department	1 Ferry St	485-9202	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Highway Dept/Transfer Station	165 Granite St	485-5460	Gas Leak, Power Outages
Casella Transfer Station	104 River Road		Gas Leak, Power Outages
DOT Equipment Shed	Rt 28 (1.5m North of River Rd)	485-9526	All

Six cisterns are situated north of Bear Brook State Forest and generally along Deerfield Road. The public water supplies of the Merrimack and Suncook Rivers travel along the entire western edge of Allenstown. The sewage treatment plant and pump station are located on Ferry Street just before the Suncook enters the Merrimack. Bridges are dotted throughout Allenstown along Main Street, School Street, Route 28, Deerfield Road, and other local roadways. Active dams, most of which are privately owned or in state ownership, are located on Boat Meadow Brook, Bear Hill Pond, Catamount Brook, Pease Brook, Catamount Pond, and the Suncook River.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Wet Cistern	Clearview Road		Power Outages, Ice
Wet Cistern	Birchwood Road		Power Outages, Ice, Fire
Wet Cistern	Dowst Road		Power Outages, Ice, Fire
Wet Cistern	Mount Delight Road		Power Outages, Ice, Fire
Dry Cistern	Podunk Road		Power Outages, Ice
Dry Cistern	Deerfield Road (by swimming pond)		Power Outages, Ice, Fire
Suncook River	Rt 28 (Allenstown/Pembroke town line)		Flooding
Merrimack River	Ferry St		Flooding
Suncook WWTP	Ferry St	485-2027	Flooding, Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak
Sewer Plant	35 Canal St		Flooding, Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak
Canal	Canal St (next to mill)		Flooding, Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak
Boat Meadow Brook Bridge	River Rd		Flooding, Ice
Buck St Dam East	Suncook River	271-3503	Flooding, Ice
Bear Hill Pond Dam	Boat Meadow Brook	271-2214	Flooding, Ice
Catamount Pond Dam	Bear Brook	271-2214	Flooding, Ice
Hall Mountain Marsh Dam	Bear Brook	271-2501	Flooding, Ice
Hayes Marsh Dam	Catamount Brook	271-2501	Flooding, Ice
Sewage Pump Station	River/Pinewood Rd		Flooding, Ice, Power Outage
Bear Brook SP Pump Station (2)	Deerfield Road	485-7257	Flooding, Ice, Fire, Power Outage

The Allenstown Elementary School is located on Main Street, near the Fire Station, and the Armand Dupont Middle School is located on School Street, near the Police Department. A private school is located off River Road. The only hospital facility is an animal hospital off of Route 28.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Pinehaven Boys Center	River Rd	485-7141	All
Allenstown Elementary School	30 South Main St	485-9574	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Armand R. Dupont School	10 School St		Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Allenstown Animal Hospital	9 River Rd	485-7133	Gas Leak, Power Outages

### Vulnerable Populations

Areas or neighborhoods that are densely populated, buildings that house people who may not be self-sufficient in a disaster, or areas that include homes which are not very resistant to natural disasters are considered vulnerable. Vulnerable populations include manufactured home parks, elderly housing developments or care facilities, and day care operations.

Elderly housing facilities are located in the downtown area one-quarter mile away from Fire and Police responders, and similarly from the Suncook River. Two daycare facilities were identified, one on School Street and the other on Chester Turnpike. Both are located in the downtown area. Seven manufactured housing parks were identified in Allenstown. Two are located in the downtown area, one on Granite Street (near the Highway Department), two off of Route 28, and two additional parks within Bear Brook State Park on Deerfield Road.



Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
We Care Retirement Home	12 Cross St	485-4149	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
School St Kindergarten/Daycare	33 School St	485-8595	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
Tender Years Child Care Center	3 Chester Turnpike	485-8932	Power Outages, Gas Leak
Bear Brook Gardens Two	238 Deerfield Rd		Fire, Power Outages, Ice
Brookside Terrace	Rt 28		Flooding, Power Outages
Holiday Acres	1A Parkwood Dr	485-5447	Power Outages, Gas Leak
Bear Brook Villa	Rt 28	485-3458	Fire, Power Outages
Bear Brook Gardens One	213 Deerfield Rd	485-5550	Fire, Power Outages, Ice
Chroniak's	48 Main St	485-8851	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages
St Germain's	50 Main St	485-4096	Lightning, Gas Leak, Power Outages

### Economic Assets

Although a town normally contains dozens of small businesses, typically several businesses stand out prominently in town. These businesses employ the most people in a town (both from Allenstown and from outside) and are places where large numbers of people are located and may need to evacuate from in the event of a disaster. In other cases, some large businesses can provide critical services or products to residents in need or may be able to sustain their employees for a long duration.

Few large employers were identified as economic assets. One is located near the 100-year floodplain in the downtown and the others are located just outside the 500-year floodplain on Route 28.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Allenstown Business Park	Rt 28	485-5239	Flooding, Power Outages, Gas Leak, Route 28 Accidents
Allenstown Business Park	65 Pinewood Rd	268-0538	Flooding, Power Outages, Gas Leak, Route 28 Accidents
Heritage Trimming	32 Library St	485-7800	Flooding, Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak

### Special Considerations

Churches and cemeteries are special considerations for their unique contributions to society. Churches are often natural gathering places for people in disasters and can temporarily provide shelter and accommodation. Cemeteries, both public and small privately owned lots, are recognized for their historical and logistical importance. In addition, businesses that potentially store or use hazardous materials are listed as special considerations due to the potential for leaking or combustion in the event of a disaster.

Cemeteries and churches are special considerations. Numerous private cemeteries were identified, many of which are located on or by Deerfield Road. One church is located downtown, and one is on Route 28.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Burgin Family Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Flooding
Cate-Batchelder Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Unknown
Batchelder-Hayes Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Flooding
Batchelder-Blaisdell Cemetery	Mount Delight Road		Flooding
Clark Burial Ground Cemetery	Bear Brook State Park		Power Outages
Dowst-Allen Cemetery	Wing Road		Unknown
Evans-Batchelder Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Fire, Steep Slopes
Philbrick Cemetery	Philbrick Road		Unknown
St. Jean Baptiste (new) Cemetery	River Road		Flooding
St. Jean Baptiste (old) Cemetery	Granite Street Ext		Flooding
Kenison Corner - west Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Unknown
Kenison Corner - east Cemetery	Deerfield Road		Unknown
Leavitt Cemetery	Podunk Road		Unknown
Lane-Lear Cemetery	New Rye Road		Flooding, Steep Slopes
St. Jean Baptiste Church	School Street		Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak
Sunrise Baptist Church	Rt 28	485-8133	Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak

Nine hazardous materials facilities were identified. They included gas stations and auto repair shops. Four are located along Route 3 at the Hooksett border, one in the downtown, one on Granite Street, and two on Route 28. The inactive landfill is at the back of the Transfer Station.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
GMS Hydraulics Inc	200 Daniel Webster Hwy	485-3344	Power Outages, Gas Leak
Thomas Hodgson & Son	25 Canal St	485-9795	
John's Truck Service & Welding	1 Allenstown Rd	485-7652	Power Outages, Gas Leak
JR's Cycle & Auto Repair	27 Valley St	485-5207	
Keith's Truck Service	124 Granite St	485-3532	Power Outages, Gas Leak
Riggs Unlimited	Rt 3	485-3400	Power Outages, Gas Leak
Suncook River Convenience Str	270 Pinewood (Rt 28)	485-2242	Route 28 Accidents
Temple Tool & Dye	32 Library St	485-8464	Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak
Landfill (inactive)	Granite St		Lightning, Power Outages, Gas Leak

### Historic/Other Considerations

Historic resources and structures provide that link to the cultural history of a town. They may also be more vulnerable to certain hazards since they often have fewer safety devices installed or have limited access. Recreational facilities are places where large groups of people gather. Campgrounds in particular may be more vulnerable to natural disasters because the shelters are light and temporary.

Five historic resources were identified within Town. Two of them are located in the downtown near the 100-year floodplain, a third is located in the downtown, and two are located in Bear Brook State Park.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Bear Brook State Park	Civilian Deerfield Road		Fire, Power Outages
Conservation Corps Old Meeting House	Deerfield Road		Fire, Power Outages
China Mills	Downtown		Lightning, Flooding, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Oldest House in Allenstown	Downtown		Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Pembroke Mill	Downtown		Lightning, Flooding, Gas Leaks, Power Outages

Eight recreational fields, parks, or centers were identified as places where large numbers of people could be gathered. Seven are located in the downtown area, one on Granite Street, and one on Deerfield Road.

Facility Type	Address	Phone	Hazard the Site is Most Susceptible to
Library	59 Main St	485-7651	Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Suncook Senior Center	10 School St	485-4254	Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Allenstown Elem Sports Field	Downtown		Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Allenstown Park Sports Field	Downtown		Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Upper Elem Sports Field	Downtown		Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Cheer Center Sports Field	St. John Baptist Church		Lightning, Gas Leaks, Power Outages
Pine Haven Boys Ctr Sports Fld	Off River Road		All
Bear Brook State Park	Deerfield Road		Fire, Power Outages

### Homes within the Floodplain

Fifty-six (56) residential homes were counted within the 100-year and 500-year floodplain. In Allenstown, the floodplain runs along Route 28 north-southwest. With an average of 2.5 persons per household in 2000 (US Census 2000), 140 people could be affected by flooding in and around their homes during a particularly bad storm event.

### Evacuation Routes

The primary evacuation routes were identified as Route 3 north-south into Pembroke and Hooksett, Route 28 north into Pembroke, and Main Street north-south into Pembroke and Hooksett. These routes service the majority of the population, which is concentrated in the downtown area and those living within the Bear Brook State Park borders.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

#### **LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

The following objectives were adopted by the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee to represent Allenstown's commitment to reduce the damages caused by natural hazards. The objectives were excerpted from the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and amended as needed to reflect Allenstown's small community needs.

##### **Objectives**

1. To improve upon the protection of the general population, the citizens of Allenstown and guests, from all natural and man-made hazards.
2. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's critical facilities and support services.
3. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's infrastructure.
4. To improve Emergency Preparedness, disaster response, and recovery capability.
5. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on private property.
6. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's natural environment.
7. To reduce Allenstown's liability with respect to natural and man-made hazards generally.
8. To identify and provide resources for citizens.

**Mitigation Actions**

In order to meet these objectives, a series of actions, found within the Mitigation Action Plan, shall be undertaken:

1. To improve upon the protection of the general population, the citizens of Allenstown and guests, from all natural and man-made hazards.
  - Police, Fire and EMD obtain and review with Bear Brook State Park Management Plan.
  - Continue with fire safety education program for children and residents.
  - Work with NHDES and Epsom town officials to mitigate flood hazards on the Suncook River in Epsom that impact Allenstown.
  - Continue to participate and coordinate plans with the CAPHN (Capital Area Public Health Network) in regards to pandemic and other public health threats.
2. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's critical facilities and support services.
  - Replace and relocate highway department building and aged equipment.
3. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's infrastructure.
  - AHD will continue to perform drive-by tree examinations and notify utility companies when in need of trimming.
  - Replace culvert and upgrade ditch-lines on Mt. Delight Rd. and Deerfield Rd.
4. To improve Emergency Preparedness, disaster response, and recovery capability.
  - Research grant assistance for purchasing a generator for the Allenstown Elementary School.
  - Develop pre-planned Incident Action Plans for flooding and other more common disasters (Ice Storms, Blizzards, etc...).
  - Upgrade the Emergency Management radio system.
  - Develop agreement with American Red Cross for a shelter plan.
  - Purchase and implement Emergency Management software that is NIMS/ICS compatible for the EOC and first responders.
  - Investigate feasibility of reverse 911.
  - Replace aged fire suppression equipment.
  - Hold annual NFIP workshop for new Planning Board and Building Inspector.
  - Update contractor and equipment operator list.
  - Update volunteer equipment and operators list.
  - Identify critical facilities that need emergency evacuation plans and develop such plans.
  - Continue to conduct relevant emergency management exercises to keep first responders and emergency services managers at a high state of readiness. Conduct joint exercises with surrounding communities (Area Command and Unified Command exercises).
  - Continue to implement NIMS/ICS training and ensure that all critical positions have the adequate level of training for those job functions.
  - Upgrade radiological detection equipment (provided through HSEM) and conduct training to use equipment.

5. To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on Allenstown's natural environment.
  - Update ordinance to reflect new DES standards.
  - Purchase flood-prone and repetitive loss properties through grants.
6. To identify and provide resources for citizens.
  - Continue to provide public information on the town's website.

## EXISTING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

A number of pro-active protection mechanisms are in place which could reduce the damages and losses in the event of a natural disaster or secondary disaster.

### Description of Existing Programs and Activities

Each program or activity was identified by the Hazard Mitigation Committee and was discussed for its effectiveness and for any recommended changes or improvements.

Program or Activity	Description	Location	Effectiveness / Enforcement	Improvements or Changes	Progress since 2002
Emergency Action Plan (1992)	Describes who's responsible for what actions during an emergency, includes evacuation plan.	Town-wide	Includes general warning systems, including word-of-mouth, church bells, chain of command of Emergency Management people, and local radio stations	Update plan, make sure plan for evacuation is adequately addressed	Completed. EOP updated in 2007.
Mutual Aid Program	Task force can be sent to the Town if the event of large fires.	Town-wide	Fire Department	None	n/a
Garvin Falls Dam Plan	Describes what to do in case of dam failure at Garvins Falls.	Merrimack River / downtown	PSNH. Drills done once a year.	None	n/a
Bear Brook State Park Management Plan (1994)	State management Plan for use of the Park	Bear Brook State Park	NH Department of Resources and Economic Development	Police and Fire Chiefs will review plan for applicability.	Continuing
Emergency back-up power	Emergency generators for the Sewer Plant, Fire Department, Highway Department, and Elementary School.	Downtown	Not yet utilized. Sewer Plant tests on a schedule; Police tests monthly and Fire tests weekly.	AES and Highway Dept. need to replace generators.	Police station, Town Offices, Fire Dept. and ARD have generators.
Martial Law on Gasoline	Gasoline stations can be taken over by Town if equipment required gas and none is available at Highway Dept.	Town-wide	Not yet utilized. Gas can be purchased if needed.	Look into universal charging system.	Gas can be obtained from DOT sheds.
Firefighting Grant from FEMA	Funding source tapped for safety and communications equipment.	Town-wide	Fire Department	None	n/a
Forestry	Funding source tapped	Town-wide	Fire Department	None	n/a

Program or Activity	Description	Location	Effectiveness / Enforcement	Improvements or Changes	Progress since 2002
Grant from NH DRED	for equipment.				
Town Shelter at Allenstown Elementary School Gym	The gymnasium will provide shelter in a disaster.	Downtown	Has worked effectively but needs back-up generator.	Replace generators.	Currently pursuing grants.
Warning System	The Emergency Action Plan states that church bells will be sounded in the event of an emergency.	Downtown	Only works in downtown; people may not know what bells mean	Upgrade to NAWAS radio	EOP updated the public information and warning system.
Floodplain Development Regulations in Zoning	Includes separate standards for new or improved manufactured homes, residential homes, or non-residential development in floodplain.	Floodplain	Planning Board / Building Inspector	Update ordinance at March town meeting.	Completed at 2009 town meeting.
Manufactured Housing Regulations in Zoning	Contains a ratio of 1 new manufactured permit issued for every 15 new traditional residential permits issued.	Town-wide	Planning Board / Building Inspector; Works well by encouraging replacement of older manufactured homes	None	n/a
NFIP Participant	Enrolled in program since 1979.	Floodplain	Planning Board / Building Inspector / Town Administrative Assistant	None	OEP provided training
Fire Protection in Subdivision Regulations	Must satisfy improvement criteria (cisterns, road access) if deemed "scattered and premature."	Outskirts	Planning Board	None	n/a

### Integration of Mitigation Priorities into Planning and Regulatory Tools

Many of the existing regulations as noted above should be regularly reviewed. This review process can lead to revisions that will incorporate mechanisms to assist in the implementation of the hazard mitigation priorities as defined in this Plan. This review will continue to be a priority of the Allenstown Emergency Management Director and will likely include yearly requests in the annual budget process. Moreover, as suggested in the onset of this document, this Plan is a planning tool to be used by the Town of Allenstown, as well as other local, state, and federal governments, in the effort to reduce future losses from natural and/or man-made hazardous events before they occur. Under the Prioritized Mitigation Projects Action Plan (found in Chapter 5), all parties listed under the Responsibility/Oversight category shall also review this listing annually, and consider the listed (and updated) mitigation projects within their annual budget requests.

### Recommended Improvements

The Bear Brook State Park Management Plan, 1994, should be distributed to all local officials who need to be knowledgeable when a natural disaster strikes. Since this wild Park covers 51% of the town, or roughly 6,700 acres, it is particularly susceptible to fire. Nearby residences are continually

being built, and cisterns are added. Coordination with NH Department of Resources and Economic Development and other State agencies such as NH Fish and Game should occur for mutual education on current developments in and around the Park and for resource sharing.

An electrical backup generator for pumping fuel at the Highway Garage should be purchased since the one they currently use is on loan. In addition, the Elementary School should have a generator since the building will become a shelter in the event of a disaster.

Notification to residents of the shelter at Allenstown Elementary School, as well as general disaster information, should be provided. A series of educational pamphlets should be developed and distributed to residents. Topics should include: where the shelters are and what the conditions for use are, where to evacuate, what to do in the event of natural disasters. Methods of distribution could include pamphlets available at the Town Hall, hand distribution to homes, sending notices home with school children, and articles in the Sun.



## NEWLY IDENTIFIED MITIGATION STRATEGIES

In addition to what Allenstown was already doing to protect its residents and property from a natural disaster, a number of additional strategies were identified for consideration.

Program or Activity	Description	Location	Hazard Type	Type of Activity
Update Wetlands Area Regulations.	Update ordinance to reflect new DES standards.	Town-wide	Flooding	Prevention
Familiarity with Bear Brook State Park Management Plan	Police, Fire and EMD obtain and review with Bear Brook State Park Management Plan.	Western half of Allenstown	Fire, Ice, Wind	Prevention, Emergency Service
Shelter	Research grant assistance for purchasing a generator for the Allenstown Elementary School.	Elementary School	All	Emergency Service
Shelter	Develop agreement with American Red Cross for a shelter plan.	Town-wide	All	Emergency Service
Upgrade the Emergency Management radio system.	The current radio system should to be upgraded to enable better emergency communication.	Fire/Police Dept .	All	Emergency Service
NFIP Program Workshop for Planning Board and Building Inspector	The Building Inspector and Planning Board should be familiar with the NFIP. Conduct annual NFIP workshop for new Planning Board and Building Inspector.	Floodplain	Flooding	Prevention, Natural Resources, Property Protection
Fire Safety Education	Continue with fire safety education program for children and residents.	Town-wide	Fire	Public Education
Tree Examination and Trimming	AHD will continue to perform drive-by tree examinations and notify utility companies when in need of trimming.	Town-wide	Ice, Wind	Prevention
Suncook River Flooding	Work with NHDES and Epsom town officials to mitigate flood hazards on the Suncook River in Epsom that impact Allenstown.	Suncook Floodplain	Flood	Prevention, Property Protection
Public Health Planning	Continue to participate and coordinate plans with the CAPHN (Capital Area Public Health Network) in regards to pandemic and other public health threats.	Town-wide	Human Caused Hazard	Prevention, Public Health
Highway Department Improvements	Replace and relocate highway department building and aged equipment.	Town-wide	Flood, Winter Weather, Severe Wind	Equipment

Program or Activity	Description	Location	Hazard Type	Type of Activity
Culvert Upgrades	Replace culvert and upgrade ditch-lines on Mt. Delight Rd. and Deerfield Rd.	Site-specific	Flood, Hurricane	Structural
Pre-Plans	Develop pre-planned Incident Action Plans for flooding and other more common disasters (Ice Storms, Blizzards, etc...).	Town-wide	All	Prevention
Public Alert System	Investigate feasibility of reverse 911.	Town-wide	All	Prevention
Upgrade Fire Equipment	Replace aged fire suppression equipment.	Town-wide	Fire	Equipment
Resource list	Update contractor and equipment operator list.	Town-wide	All	Prevention
Resource list	Update volunteer equipment and operators list.	Town-wide	All	Prevention
Evacuation Plans	Identify critical facilities that need emergency evacuation plans and develop such plans.	Town-wide	All	Prevention
Exercise Program	Continue to conduct relevant emergency management exercises to keep first responders and emergency services managers at a high state of readiness. Conduct joint exercises with surrounding communities (Area Command and Unified Command exercises).	Town-wide	All	Emergency Services
ICS/NIMS	Purchase and implement Emergency Management software that is NIMS/ICS compatible for the EOC and first responders.	Town-wide	All	Equipment
ICS/NIMS	Continue to implement NIMS/ICS training and ensure that all critical positions have the adequate level of training for those job functions.	Town-wide	All	Emergency Services
Radiological	Upgrade radiological detection equipment (provided through HSEM) and conduct training to use equipment.	Town-wide	Human-Caused	Emergency Services
Acquisition of Flood prone properties	Purchase flood-prone and repetitive loss properties through grants.	Floodplain	Flood	Prevention, Protection of Floodplain and Property
Public Education	Continue to provide public information on the town's website.	Town-wide	All	Public Education

**EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MITIGATION ACTIONS**

**Prioritized Mitigation Projects**

Each committee member reviewed the 24 projects. After careful evaluation, the committee ranked the projects by voting for half of the projects. The project that received the most votes was ranked as the highest priority and the project receiving the least amount of votes received the lowest priority. (See Prioritized Mitigation Projects in Appendix B.) The committee was able to determine a basic benefit/cost by using the STAPLEE method. For each project identified, the committee considered the STAPLEE Criteria (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic and Environmental) to guide their decision in prioritizing the projects. The prioritized projects are identified in the Mitigation Action Plan.

**Allenstown’s Mitigation Action Plan**

The ranking in the Priority column on the following table is merely a guideline for when the Town should begin acting on the identified strategies, or Actions. The Committee then determined who would be responsible for ensuring that each action would be completed, the recommended completion date, the approximate cost for completing the action, and how the action would be funded. The Mitigation Action Plan is a comprehensive strategy designed to help the Town of Allenstown prepare in advance for the impacts of natural disasters. The Action Plan should guide future hazard mitigation efforts.

Mitigation Action Plan					
Project	Responsibility/ Oversight	Funding/Support	Timeframe	Hazards Addressed	Priority (High/Med/Low)
1. Work with NHDES and Epsom town officials to mitigate flood hazards on the Suncook River in Epsom that impact Allenstown.	Selectmen	DES, Epsom	2012	Flood	High
2. Continue to conduct relevant emergency management exercises to keep first responders and emergency services managers at a high state of readiness. Conduct joint exercises with surrounding communities (Area Command and Unified Command exercises).	EMD	HSEEP grants	Annually	All	High
3. Continue to implement NIMS/ICS training and ensure that all critical positions have the adequate level of training for those job functions.	Fire Chief / Police Chief/EMD	Town budget, NH Fire Academy, NH Police Academy	Annually	All	High
4. Develop agreement with American Red Cross for a shelter plan.	EMD	American Red Cross	2009	All	High
5. Replace and relocate highway department building and aged equipment.	Selectmen	Town Meeting	2014	Flood, Winter Weather, Wind	High
6. Replace culvert and upgrade ditch-lines on Mt. Delight Rd. and Deerfield Rd.	Allenstown Highway Department (AHD)	HMGP	2010	Flood, Hurricane	High
7. Develop pre-planned Incident Action Plans for flooding and other more common disasters (Ice Storms, Blizzards, etc...).	EMD	Staff time	2009	All	High
8. Investigate feasibility of reverse 911	Police	Stafftime	2009	All	High
9. Police, Fire and EMD obtain and review with Bear Brook State Park Management Plan.	Fire Chief/Police Chief	Staff time, Bear Brook State Park	2009	Fire, Winter Weather, Wind	Medium
10. Research grant assistance for purchasing a generator for the Allenstown Elementary School.	EMD	Federal Grants: EMPG, HMGP	2010	All	Medium
11. Continue with fire safety education program for children and residents.	Fire Chief	Fire Department	Annually	Fire	Medium

Mitigation Action Plan					
Project	Responsibility/ Oversight	Funding/Support	Timeframe	Hazards Addressed	Priority (High/Med/Low)
12. AHD will continue to perform drive-by tree examinations and notify utility companies when in need of trimming.	Department of Public Works	Staff time	Annually	Winter Weather, Wind	Medium
13. Continue to participate and coordinate plans with the CAPHN (Capital Area Public Health Network) in regards to pandemic and other public health threats.	Health Officer	NH Department of Health and Human Services	On-going	Human Caused Hazards	Medium
14. Replace aged fire suppression equipment.	Fire Chief	Fire Department Budget / Town meeting	2012	Fire	Medium
15. Identify critical facilities that need emergency evacuation plans and develop such plans.	EMD	Staff time	2010	All	Medium
16. Purchase and implement Emergency Management software that is NIMS/ICS compatible for the EOC and first responders.	EMD	Federal Grants	2010	All	Medium
17. Purchase flood-prone and repetitive loss properties through grants.	Selectmen	FMA / HMGP / Town Matching funds	On-going	Flood	Medium
18. Continue to provide public information on the town's website.	Administrative Assistant to BOS	Staff time	On-going	All	Medium
19. Update ordinance to reflect new DES standards.	Planning Board/Zoning Board	Staff time	2009	Flooding	Low
20. The current radio system should to be upgraded to enable better emergency communication.	Police Fire	EMPG	2010	All	Low
21. The Building Inspector and Planning Board should be familiar with the NFIP. Conduct annual NFIP workshop for new Planning Board and Building Inspector.	Building Inspector	Office of Energy and Planning	Annually	Flooding	Low
22. Update contractor and equipment operator list.	AHD	Staff time	2009	All	Low
23. Update volunteer equipment and operators list.	AHD	Staff time	2009	All	Low
24. Upgrade radiological detection equipment (provided through HSEM) and conduct training to use equipment.	Fire Chief	HSEM	2010	Human Caused Hazards	Low

## CHAPTER 6

### PLAN MAINTENANCE

#### Implementation

There were 24 mitigation projects that were prioritized by the Committee. For each project the Committee identified who, when and how they would be implemented. Please refer to the “Action Plan” for a description of the timeframe and persons or departments responsible for implementation of the Prioritized Projects. It will be the future responsibility of the Emergency Management Director to ensure implementation of these Prioritized Projects.

#### Monitoring & Updates

The Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan must be reviewed, evaluated and updated at least once every five years. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for initiating this review and needs to consult with members of the Allenstown Emergency Management Committee, in order to track progress and update the Prioritized List in Chapter 6. The EMD will convene the Committee at least once every five year to ensure the following:

- The Hazard Analysis will be evaluated for accuracy.
- Projects completed will be evaluated to determine if they met their objective.
- Projects not completed since the last updated will be reviewed to determine feasibility of future implementation.
- Lastly, new projects will be identified and included in future updates as needed.
- The public, members of the Committee, surrounding communities, businesses, academia, State agencies and non-profit agencies, will continue to be invited and involved during this process. These groups can be notified through invitations, public notices, newspaper articles, brochures and/or other public outreach activities.
- In keeping with the process of adopting the 2009 Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan, a public hearing to receive public comment will be held. This will require the posting of two public notices, and where appropriate by posting a notice on the town’s Web Site.
- Updates to the *Plan* may be adopted subsequent to a public meeting or hearing by the Allenstown Board of Selectmen.
- Once every five years, the EMD will convene at least one meeting with the Committee to review the plan, receive public input and submit an updated plan to FEMA for approval.

#### Continued Public Involvement

The Emergency Management Director will be responsible for ensuring that Town Departments and the public have adequate opportunity to participate in the planning process. Ways to encourage involvement include:

- Give personal invitations to Budget Committee members;
- Give personal invitations to Town Department heads;
- Post notices of meetings at the Town Office, Fire Department, Library, and local businesses;
- Post flyers of the project at the Town Office, Fire Department, Library, and local businesses;
- Post newspaper articles in the Concord Monitor, Union Leader, and The Banner.

These outreach activities should be undertaken during the Plan’s annual review and during any implementation meetings the Board of Selectmen calls to order.

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN, NH  
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
ALLENSTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

WHEREAS, the Town of Allenstown received funding from the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management to assist in the preparation of the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, several public meetings and committee meetings were held between April 2009 and July 2009 regarding the development and review of the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate hazard damage in the Town of Allenstown; and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_ to formally adopt the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allenstown Board of Selectmen Adopts the Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan.

APPROVED and SIGNED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Selectmen, Chairman

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Selectmen

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Selectmen

## **APPENDIX A**

### ***Process for Disaster Declaration in Allenstown***

The Appendix contains supplemental information to this Hazard Mitigation Plan. The intent of this Plan is to provide information about potential disasters, assets at risk, and a means of implementing the actions to help minimize loss to life and property. In addition, the process by which grant and relief money can be obtained and what programs are available to assist the Town and its residents are equally important. When the Hazard Mitigation Plan process is repeated in 2003 and subsequent years, materials used for publicity and meetings are exhibited to lay out the process for future Hazard Mitigation Committees.

#### **Process for Disaster Declaration in Allenstown**

There are two phases to a disaster - first response and recovery. The recovery phase, or clean-up efforts, is where the majority of grant funds could be applied for. Having a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place before a disaster occurs, according to the US Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and its amendments, is required after November 2004 in order to be eligible to apply for these recovery funds. These grant programs are briefly explained later in this chapter under the **Grant Programs for Disaster Relief** section.

#### FEMA Information

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extensive resources related to disaster prevention and disaster recovery on its website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). The following is an excerpt from their on-line library:

The first response to a disaster is the job of local government's emergency services with help from nearby municipalities, the state and volunteer agencies. In a catastrophic disaster, and if the governor requests, federal resources can be mobilized through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for search and rescue, electrical power, food, water, shelter and other basic human needs.

It is the long-term recovery phase of disaster which places the most severe financial strain on a local or state government. Damage to public facilities and infrastructure, often not insured, can overwhelm even a large city.

A governor's request for a major disaster declaration could mean an infusion of federal funds, but the governor must also commit significant state funds and resources for recovery efforts.

A Major Disaster could result from a hurricane, earthquake, flood, tornado or major fire which the President determines warrants supplemental federal aid. The event must be clearly more than state or local governments can handle alone. If declared, funding comes from the President's Disaster Relief Fund, which is managed by FEMA, and disaster aid programs of other participating federal agencies.

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help disaster victims, businesses and public entities.

An Emergency Declaration is more limited in scope and without the long-term federal recovery programs of a Major Disaster Declaration. Generally, federal assistance and funding are provided to meet a specific emergency need or to help prevent a major disaster from occurring.



### The Major Disaster Process

A Major Disaster Declaration usually follows these steps:

- The Local government responds, supplemented by neighboring communities and volunteer agencies. If overwhelmed, turn to the state for assistance;
- The State responds with state resources, such as the National Guard and state agencies;
- Damage assessment by local, state, federal, and volunteer organizations determines losses and recovery needs;
- A Major Disaster Declaration is requested by the governor, based on the damage assessment, and an agreement to commit state funds and resources to the long-term recovery;
- FEMA evaluates the request and recommends action to the White House based on the disaster, the local community and the state's ability to recover;
- The President approves the request or FEMA informs the governor it has been denied. This decision process could take a few hours or several weeks depending on the nature of the disaster.

### Disaster Aid Programs

There are two major categories of disaster aid: Individual Assistance is for damage to residences and businesses or personal property losses, and Public Assistance is for repair of infrastructure, public facilities and debris removal.

#### *Individual*

Immediately after the declaration, disaster workers arrive and set up a central field office to coordinate the recovery effort. A toll-free telephone number is published for use by affected residents and business owners in registering for assistance. Disaster Recovery Centers also are opened where disaster victims can meet with program representatives and obtain information about available aid and the recovery process.

#### *Assistance*

Disaster aid to individuals generally falls into the following categories:

Disaster Housing may be available for up to 18 months, using local resources, for displaced persons whose residences were heavily damaged or destroyed. Funding also can be provided for housing repairs and replacement of damaged items to make homes habitable.

Disaster Grants, are available to help meet other serious disaster related needs and necessary expenses not covered by insurance and other aid programs. These may include replacement of personal property, and transportation, medical, dental and funeral expenses.

Low-Interest Disaster Loans are available after a disaster for homeowners and renters from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to cover uninsured property losses. Loans may be for repair or replacement of homes, automobiles, clothing or other damaged personal property. Loans are also available to businesses for property loss and economic injury.

Other Disaster Aid Programs include crisis counseling, disaster-related unemployment assistance, legal aid and assistance with income tax, Social Security and Veteran's benefits. Other state or local help may also be available.

Assistance Process -- After the application is taken, the damaged property is inspected to verify the loss. If approved, an applicant will soon receive a check for rental assistance or a grant. Loan applications require more information and approval may take several weeks after application. The deadline for most individual assistance programs is 60 days following the President's major disaster declaration.

Audits are done later to ensure that aid went to only those who were eligible and that disaster aid funds were used only for their intended purposes. These federal program funds cannot duplicate assistance provided by other sources such as insurance.

After a major disaster, FEMA tries to notify all disaster victims about the available aid programs and urge them to apply. The news media are encouraged to visit a Disaster Recovery Center, meet with disaster officials, and help publicize the disaster aid programs and the toll-free teleregistration number.

#### *Public*

#### *Assistance*

Public Assistance is aid to state or local governments to pay part of the costs of rebuilding a community's damaged infrastructure. Generally, public assistance programs pay for 75 per cent of the approved project costs. Public Assistance may include debris removal, emergency protective measures and public services, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

#### *Hazard*

#### *Mitigation*

Disaster victims and public entities are encouraged to avoid the life and property risks of future disasters. Examples include the elevation or relocation of chronically flood-damaged homes away from flood hazard areas, retrofitting buildings to make them resistant to earthquakes or strong winds, and adoption and enforcement of adequate codes and standards by local, state and federal government. FEMA encourages and helps fund damage mitigation measures when repairing disaster damaged structures.

For more information, FEMA should be contacted at (617) 223-9540 or at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), or contact the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management at (800) 852-3792 or at [www.nhHSEM.state.nh.us](http://www.nhHSEM.state.nh.us).

## **APPENDIX B**

### ***Grant Programs for Disaster Relief***

Through the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM), the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides funds for assistance to municipalities in the event of a disaster. The programs are described briefly here. For more details about these funding sources, contact the NH HSEM.

#### Emergency Management Assistance (EMA)

This proactive funding program requires a 50% match from communities. It supports projects that will improve local emergency management preparedness and response in the following areas: planning, training, drills and exercise, and administration. It is designed to fund projects such as Hazard Mitigation Plans, Emergency Management/Action Plans, and other administrative projects.

#### Mitigation Assistance Program (MAP)

This program requires a 25% match (in-kind or cash) and supports planning and implementation activities that reduce long-term hazard vulnerability and risk under the following categories: public awareness and education; mitigation planning and implementation; and preparedness and response planning.

#### Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP)

This program requires a 25% match (half in-kind and half local cash) and awards funds for Planning Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, and Project Grants. A Flood Mitigation Plan must be in place before funds can be sought for Technical Assistance or Projects. This program awards funding for Flood Mitigation Plans, structural enhancements, acquisition of buildings or land, and relocation projects.

#### Project Impact

This program seeks to build disaster-resistant communities by forming public/private partnerships with seed grants. Awards are granted for projects involving the mitigation for existing structures, adoption of policies and practices to mitigate effects of hazards, and activities that build and sustain public/private hazard mitigation partnerships.

#### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

A disaster must be declared to take advantage of this program, which awards emergency funds to cover unmet needs in a community. At least one of three national objectives must be met: the funds must have a direct benefit to low and moderate income persons; or must prevent or eliminate slums and blight in neighborhoods; or must eliminate conditions which threaten the public health and welfare. The NH Office of State Planning administers this program.

#### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

A disaster must be declared to take advantage of this program, which is designed to protect public and private property from future disasters. This program typically awards funding for projects that are structural in nature or for the acquisition of buildings or land.

For more information, for a listing of criteria, or to request an application to these or any other grant programs, please contact the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management at (800) 852-3792 or at [www.nhHSEM.state.nh.us](http://www.nhHSEM.state.nh.us).

**APPENDIX C*****Publicity and Meeting Information for 2009 Hazard Mitigation Plan***

To better assist future Hazard Mitigation Committee updates of this Plan, exhibited are the Agendas from the 2 committee meetings held for the 2009 Update. Also included are press releases, published public notices, and flyers which were posted around the Town to encourage all interested people to attend the meetings.

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE  
RESIDENTS OF ALLENSTOWN, NH****HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE****Wednesday, November 5, 2008****1:00pm to 3:30pm****Allenstown Police Station**

The Town of Allenstown is beginning the process to update the *Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2002*. The *Plan* identifies potential natural and man-made hazards throughout the town and various projects and strategies to mitigate their effects. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), Section 322-Mitigation Planning requires all local governments prepare and adopt jurisdiction-wide hazard mitigation plan as a condition of receiving federal mitigation grants.

All citizens and businesses are formally invited to attend a committee meeting to update the Plan on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:30pm.

For more information please contact Allenstown Police Chief Mulholland at 603-485-9500.

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE  
RESIDENTS OF ALLENSTOWN, NH****HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE****Wednesday, December 3, 2008****1:00pm to 2:30pm****Allenstown Police Station**

The Town of Allenstown is holding a second committee meeting to update the *Allenstown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2002*. The *Plan* identifies potential natural and man-made hazards throughout the town and various projects and strategies to mitigate their effects. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), Section 322-Mitigation Planning requires all local governments prepare and adopt jurisdiction-wide hazard mitigation plan as a condition of receiving federal mitigation grants.

All citizens and businesses are formally invited to attend a committee meeting to update the Plan on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 from 1:00 to 2:30pm.

For more information please contact Allenstown Police Chief Mulholland at 603-485-9500.

*The above notices were posted at the Town Office, Police Station and town website.*

## Allenstown, NH All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

### Committee Meeting November 5, 2008 AGENDA

1. *Review December 2002 Plan:*  
  
**Review Natural Hazards** – Any changes?  
**Complete the Hazard Assessment Table**  
**Identify Human Caused Hazards**  
**Complete Human Caused Hazard Vulnerability Assessment**
2. *Next meeting*  
**Mitigation Projects** – Any completed since 2002?
3. *Set date for next Committee Meeting*



*Albin Ave – April 2007*

## Allenstown, NH All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

### Committee Meeting December 2, 2008 AGENDA

1. *Review Existing Mitigation Strategies*
2. *Review Mitigation Actions:*  
**Any completed? Any new actions?**
3. *Review and update Newly Identified Mitigation Strategies*  
**Any completed? Any new strategies?**
4. *Email projects to committee to prioritize.*
5. *Final Draft will be delivered to town for review before submittal to FEMA.*



*Albin Ave – April 2007*

For purposes of prioritizing the projects listed in the table below, each committee member should vote for half of the projects (12) by placing a check mark next to your 12 priority projects. There are total of 24 projects. The projects will be prioritized based upon the total number of votes received for each project.

MITIGATION ACTION	VOTES	Priority
1. Work with NHDES and Epsom town officials to mitigate flood hazards on the Suncook River in Epsom that impact Allenstown.	5	High
2. Develop pre-planned Incident Action Plans for flooding and other more common disasters (Ice Storms, Blizzards, etc...).	5	High
3. Continue to conduct relevant emergency management exercises to keep first responders and emergency services managers at a high state of readiness. Conduct joint exercises with surrounding communities (Area Command and Unified Command exercises).	5	High
4. Replace culvert and upgrade ditch-lines on Mt. Delight Rd. and Deerfield Rd.	4	High
5. Investigate feasibility of reverse 911.	4	High
6. Continue to implement NIMS/ICS training and ensure that all critical positions have the adequate level of training for those job functions.	4	High
7. Develop agreement with American Red Cross for a shelter plan.	4	High
8. Replace and relocate highway department building and aged equipment.	3	Medium
9. Purchase and implement Emergency Management software that is NIMS/ICS compatible for the EOC and first responders.	3	Medium
10. Continue with fire safety education program for children and residents.	3	Medium
11. Research grant assistance for purchasing a generator for the Allenstown Elementary School.	3	Medium
12. Continue to provide public information on the town's website.	2	Medium
13. Police, Fire and EMD obtain and review with Bear Brook State Park Management Plan.	2	Medium
14. Continue to participate and coordinate plans with the CAPHN (Capital Area Public Health Network) in regards to pandemic and other public health threats.	2	Medium
15. AHD will continue to perform drive-by tree examinations and notify utility companies when in need of trimming.	2	Medium
16. Replace aged fire suppression equipment.	2	Medium
17. Purchase flood-prone and repetitive loss properties through grants.	2	Medium
18. Identify critical facilities that need emergency evacuation plans and develop such plans.	2	Medium
19. Update ordinance to reflect new DES standards.	1	Low
20. Upgrade the Emergency Management radio system.	1	Low
21. Hold annual NFIP workshop for new Planning Board and Building Inspector.	1	Low
22. Update contractor and equipment operator list.	1	Low
23. Update volunteer equipment and operators list.	1	Low
24. Upgrade radiological detection equipment (provided through HSEM) and conduct training to use equipment.		Low

Total of 5 Voters:

0-1 low  
2-3 Medium  
4-5 High